

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 93 09:01:36 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #298
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Wed, 10 Mar 93 Volume 93 : Issue 298

Today's Topics:

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 A pair of coax <-> ladder line ???
 Ham only dual-bander HT?
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 Help with Cuban Station
 Hot Mic on Alinco DJ580T
 Just for fun . . . someone's screw up
 Kenwood TH-78A
 PC Software for Code Practice
Readership Report for the Radio-Related Newsgroups
 Santec ST-142
 Speaking your mind
 TH-78A

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 10 Mar 93 11:40:49 GMT
From: mcsun!uknet!bnr.co.uk!pipex!warwick!warwick!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net
Subject: *** INFO REQUIRED ON FT480R (2M Multimode) ***
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I am in the process of repairing an Yaesu FT480R (2m multimode transceiver)
and currently in search for any circuit diagrams or service manuals or even
modifications. Can anyone help ?. I also heard a rumor that the power output
was 30 watts on SSB/CW and 10w FM. Is this correct ?.

If possible please email directly. Thanks.

Greg Milligan
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University of Warwick.
West Midlands.
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Janet: psafj@uk.ac.warwick.csv
Ham Radio: G1CPU

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1993 03:54:43 GMT
From: usc!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!moe.ksu.ksu.edu!osuunx.ucc.okstate.edu!olesun!
gcouger@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: A pair of coax <-> ladder line ???
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <14570686@hpnmdla.sr.hp.com> alanb@hpnmdla.sr.hp.com (Alan Bloom)
writes:

>In rec.radio.amateur.misc, kip@utxvms.cc.utexas.edu writes:

>

>>Is this true? Can I really hook such an arrangement up to a random length
>>vertical and a ground plane, put a transmatch in my shack, and get good
>>performance?

>

>Except that the ground plane antenna is UNbalanced and low impedance.

>For that you want a single coax.

>

An open line will be better than coax because the vertical will only be
operating at low impedance on the resonate frequency. The impedance of
dipole in an L configuration is about 1/2 the impeadance of the same
antena in a normal dipole configuration. When the antena is operating
on other frequencies the impedance can run on the order of 2000 ohms when
operating at 1/2 the quarter wave resonat frequency. The reason for
using open wire feeders to this type antenna is the the fact that
open feeders have very low loss and when the SWR on the line gets
much over 3 to 1 line losses become very important. Therefore using
coax as sheilded transmission line would not gain any advantage over
coax. Coax twin lead could be used for short runs to get through walls
and such.

Using open wire for UNbalanced antennas has been done since the ZEPP
that might be more familiar as a J Pole.

Gordon AB5Dg
Gordon Couger
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gcouger@olesun.agen.okstate.edu 405-744-9763 day 624-2855 evenings

Date: Tue, 9 Mar 93 19:52:28 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!cs.utexas.edu!
gerald@cc.utexas.edu!slcs.slb.com!leo.asc.slb.com!sjsca4!jones@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Ham only dual-bander HT?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Conway Yee (yee@mipg.upenn.edu) wrote:

: >Wow - you sound rather resentful of technology, as in "I remember the good old
: >days when we used tin cans and string and THAT was a ham radio!". But in
:
: I'm sorry if my post came out sounding this way but there are solid reasons
: for my desires.
:
: 1) I am a firm believer in the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid). With
: features, comes complexity. With complexity, there is much more that can
: go wrong. In general, a simpler radio is more rugged. Remember, we are
: talking about HT's here, they will be banged around no matter what happens.

Well, there is some truth to this argument, but there is also some falsehood.
The reliability of today's electronics is, in essence, controlled by the
parts count (and the number of pins per part). The MTBF term due to the
number of transistors on a chip is down in the mud compared to everything
else, and by far most of the "bells and whistles" just add a few more
transistors to the chips. (There is the issue of volatile programming that
is kept in the chips courtesy of a lithium battery, which I've heard rumors
that a certain company with a four-letter name beginning in "I" has done, but
that is a design flaw [or "feature", if you happen to be a stockholder ;-)].)

: 2) The extra fifty gazillion features cost money. I have absolutely no
: interest in paying for features that I will never use. How many HT
: owners actually use all 1k (or whatever) memories?

Well, yes they do. But I feel reasonably confident in saying that the
number of HT's sold is such that the cost of engineering far exceeds the
cost of manufacture. Also, if a company were to design a radio today without
the "extra fifty gazillion features", it would sell a relatively small
number of them, and so the engineering costs would have to be amortized over
an even smaller number of radios, which could mean that the "plain vanilla"
rigs might end up costing MORE than the "super fancy" ones which sell a

lot more. (Gee, I want feature X, Joe wants feature Y, and Mary wants feature Z. Turns out that if we're all willing to have radios that have X, Y, and Z, they'll cost less than radios that only have one of X, Y, or Z.)

: 3) With wide band receive (which is a bug, not a feature), there is increased
: intermod. You can hear a lot more, but you hear it badly. Why not
: simply buy a scanner if that is your heart's desire?

Because that's one more piece of junk to lug around. I've got enough stuff to carry around as it is. Besides, the use of CTCSS encoding on the output of repeaters, which allows me to use "tone squelch" on my radio, cuts out most of the intermod problems at my end in my radio on the ham bands. (Unluckily, it doesn't do anything for the pagers and other stuff interfering with my reception of the NOAA broadcast, but that isn't worth while to carry a separate radio.) Also, all of the HT's I've seen at least appear to be more ruggedly constructed than _any_ scanner I've ever seen.

Also, one radio with wide band rx is a _lot_ less expensive than a radio with narrow rx plus a scanner.

: >The fact is
: >that the demand for such stripped-down, basic devices isn't there - so they
: >don't make them. No profit nor substantial interest.
:
: Quite true and this is a sad commentary on the state of ham radio. Form over
: substance wins yet another round.

Yeah, but it isn't suprising in a country that has automobiles that change every year just so they don't look too much like last year's.

As for stripped-down rigs, I'd prefer to get a stripped-down HF rig. I don't mind having to clutter my bench at home with several radios, but I _DO_ mind having to clutter my belt or briefcase with many boxes!

: --
: 411 Blockley Hall | Conway Yee, N2JWQ
: 418 Service Drive | yee@ming.mipg.upenn.edu (preferred)
: Philadelphia, PA 19104 | cy5@cunixa.cc.columbia.edu (forwarded to above)
: (215) 662-6780 |

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed above are mine and not those of Schlumberger because they are NOT covered by the patent agreement!

Phone: (602) 345-3638 RF: N7RPQ
Snail: Clark Jones, Schlumberger Technologies, 7855 S. River Pkwy #116, Tempe,
AZ 85284-1825

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1993 00:45:17 GMT
From: price@cod.nosc.mil
Subject: Ham Radio Outlet incident
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <randall.731623999@seashore> randall@informix.com (Randall Rhea) writes:

>
>
> Another lesson: you never know who will be reading your Usenet
> articles!
>

Same is true for packet messages. I posted a msg on our local DX PacketCluster (tm) a couple of years ago asking (not griping) about whether other folks were getting slow service from the W6 QSL buro. I was (but hadn't been) and I asked if there was a general slow-down in response time.

I got back a nasty letter from the buro manager (in the mail) that said it was entirely out of place for me to gripe about the QSL buro service in an open forum and it was guys like me that made him sorry he ever volunteered for the job!

After several exchanges, by the way, my "volunteer" was replaced and my buro service is excellent. I guess I'd better say that so I won't get another nastygram. Never know who might be reading....

--Jim, K6ZH

Date: 10 Mar 93 14:30:46 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Ham Radio Outlet incident
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

> "Yes I am" was my reply. "Well, look, the people who work for me
> here on the weekends are volunteers." He appeared to be a bit

Volunteers? Why do i find this hard to believe? I would think the regular paid employees would revolt over this. I know I'd be not happy to know that my services as a salesman, something I would get compensated to do, is done for free on the weekends. I'd want those commissions. Letting the volunteers sell on the weekends would just devalue my worth to the owner - since he can

get my job done for free.

maybe the IRS needs to know about this - could be a tax dodge? Saves him what he'd pay for wages, FICA, and income taxes to use "free" labor. Maybe violations of "fair employment" laws and such here.

maybe he means that the regular staff people can volunteer to work weekends. but that's still no excuse. what if a volunteer salesman makes a commitment the owner can't live up to (200% off on everything in the store, today only!)? could be uncompensated overtime for the salaried guys (watta deal get paid 40 for a 48+ week, but such is the life of the "white collar" employee).

of course, if you put prices on the goods, you have to reprice the goods when the prices change in the catalog (this is why grocers love UPC codes - only have to fix the entry on the shelf.). I can see why they might resist this.

However, the HRO catalog that came without a price list was pretty unusable (need to at least have a ballpark feel for things.) maybe it was put together by volunteers.

Maybe the HRO guys want to retract their claim of free labor on the weekends?

8) (i think...)

bill wb9ivr

Date: Tue, 9 Mar 1993 18:54:28 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!pasteur!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!sdd.hp.com!
hpscit.sc.hp.com!hplextra!hpcss01!hpcuhe!donh@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Help!, mobile noise
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Could you be hearing alternator wine? Alternator wine will vary in pitch as the engine RPM's are increased. The higher the RPM's, the higher pitch of the wine. Alternator wine can be solved with a coaxial feedthrough capacitor connected in series with the armature lead wire from the alternator. This assumes an alternator with an external voltage regulator.

Good Luck.....

* The opinions expressed are mine, and mine alone *
* *
* WB6LPJ - Cessna 172A N7770T - You can lead a horse to water, but a *
* pencil must be lead. *

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1993 02:42:46 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!hellgate.utah.edu!cs.utexas.edu!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!
news.acns.nwu.edu!thor.isp.nwu.edu!wn9s@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Help with Cuban Station
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1nibnvINNbdg@bigbird.csd.scarolina.edu>
dfrey@bigbird.csd.scarolina.edu (David Frey) writes:
>I heard CL4BM calling CQ last night about 0500 utc and gave him a call. He
>came back with a signal report and a name (Crecencio). Then he sent
>"BOX NR 150"
>
>He had a very weak signal and a chirpy tone that was hard to copy, but I got
>"ISLE OF PINE, CUBA, and NR 25100 (I think). I had heard him work another
>station just previously, and the copy was nearly identical, although I was
>unable to make sense of it. I started to ask for clairification, but he was
>calling CQ again immediately. All he got (or wanted) from me was a callsign.
>No signal report, no QTH, nothing.
>
>Any ideas? NR...Novice Roundup? (It was on the Novice portion of 40M)
>
>Tnx es 73
>David, KQ4KT (Great CW call)

I believe that the NR stands for Number. Unfortunately, I think it is kind
of redundant to say that on CW, but oh well! 8-)

73's es good Dx!
Albert
WN9S
wn9s@thor.isp.nwu.edu

Albert E. Schmelzer
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TCP/IP Gateway:wn9s@ke9yq.ampr.org
or wn9s@ke9yq.imsa.edu

I can be found on 147.315Mhz on Tues nite or 147.360 Mhz at other times!

73's es 88's to YLs!!

:^)

(-;

--

Albert E. Schmelzer
9044 N. Keeler Avenue

Northwestern University
Integrated Science Program

Date: 9 Mar 1993 17:51:49 GMT

From: sun-barr!news2me.EBay.Sun.COM!exodus.Eng.Sun.COM!appserv.Eng.Sun.COM!zule!
dlp@ames.arpa

Subject: Hot Mic on Alinco DJ580T

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I recently acquired a DJ580, which was an upgrade to from my DJF1T.
I use the radio bicycle mobile and immediately received complaints
of distorted audio. A little experimentation shows that the mic
gain the 580 is much higher than the F1. Does anyone know how to
turn the gain down? Also, does anyone have a list of the mods and
undocumented features for the 580

--

Thanks & 73

Dan Pritchett | ARPA/Internet: dlp@zule.Eng.Sun.COM
SunSoft Desktop Prod. Tools | GEnie: D.PRITCHET3
| Packet: KM6PR@N0ARY.#NOCAL.CA.USA.NA

I used to think that I was cool.
Running around on fossil fuel.
Until I saw what I was doing.
Was driving down the road to ruin.
James Taylor

Date: 9 Mar 93 23:15:09 GMT

From: bcstec!spady@uunet.uu.net

Subject: Just for fun . . . someone's screw up

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I'm not sure this is the right place to post this . . . But, I can't think of any
other group . . .

I thought some of you might get a kick out of what happened this past Saturday

in the Seattle, WA area.

We are properly licensed to use our marine VHF radio and while we were out on Puget Sound on Saturday, we were monitoring channel 16 like good kids. For well over an hour, two men had their mike keyed on channel 16 and tied up all use of that channel . . . These two men were obviously unaware that they were being heard by all boaters in the area (Coast Guard included) due to the nature of their crude and vulgar language and their continuing discussion about their wives' various habits from shopping to sex. Eventually, the mike button was somehow relieved of its pressure and we were once again able to use channel 16.

Boy, you should have heard the comments from people needing to access channel 16! Even the Coast Guard commented. As soon as channel 16 was freed up for access couldn't believe how unfortunate it was that there were boaters out there in serious trouble without the ability to use channel 16.

I hope they are able to track these buffoons down! I would even like it better if their wives could hear what they were saying about them ;-)

Since I have just started studying for my General license, I'm a little in the dark about what I could have done to either help get them off of channel 16 or what alternatives there were in case we were having a real emergency like some of the other boaters. Is there anything that any of you could share with me to help us better prepare in the event that channel 16 gets monopolized in this fashion?

I continue to get more use to the idiots that behave inappropriately on the marine channels . . . They should require more to get a VHF license to limit these people . . . However, this was a potentially dangerous situation and alternative approaches would be helpful . . . Heck there was one boater adrift without any kind of power that sat out there for what probably seemed forever waiting for channel 16 to clear.

Robyn
spady@bcstec.ca.boeing.com

Date: 10 Mar 93 14:02:35 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Kenwood TH-78A
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

It's probably been posted before, but does anyone have info for extending TX/RX coverage of the TH-78A dual bander above 450 Mhz ?

From: news.cerf.net!pagesat!olivea!spool.mu.edu!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!emory!
europa.eng.gtefsd.com!gatech!taco!mdhooper@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Santec ST-142
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have an old (circa ~1986/7 or so) Santec ST-142 handheld 2-meter FM radio.
I does not currently work at all, but before it went totally dead,
the transmitter worked properly but the unit did not receive anything (trust
me). I have two questions:

Does anyone know if this old beast is worth anything?

Will a regular radio repair place be able to repair it (I have
the schematics), or will I have to send it to Santec?

Post or e-mail, it doesn't matter to me.

Thanks,

-Mark

Mark Hooper
NC State University
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1993 03:46:37 GMT
From: saimiri.primate.wisc.edu!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!cs.utexas.edu!convex!
news.oc.com!spssig.spss.com!feenix.metronet.com!marcbg@ames.arpa
Subject: Speaking your mind
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I've read a few articles here recently about hams who posted things on
USENET pertaining to local ham radio stores, or mentioned things on the air
about a local store. The hams were subsequently approached by the store
managers or owners for one reason or another.

Well, here's my 2 cents:

I speak my mind, and try to be honest and as objective as possible. When
I spend money for an item, be it \$10 or \$3000, I expect to be treated
with respect. Certainly one of the most ridiculous things I've ever heard
is "my employees are volunteers." What difference should that make? If
your employees are volunteers then you should become a 501(c)3 charity.

Us hams (or we hams) have always been a tough bunch to deal with, granted.
We like to bargain, bitch, and be downright ornery when it comes to
negotiating a deal. Many ham radio store owners have told me that in

general, we can be a tough bunch to deal with. I say fine, but if you don't like the water then get out of the pool.

Margin on ham gear generally (except for accessories) isn't fantastic, but the gear is not cheap these days and it's no secret that there's good money in it for those who provide good customer service.

If we choose to air our problems about an organization, then I believe the owners should just take their punches and carry on, it most likely won't hurt their business. Besides, if they weren't so busy protecting their egos and actually did listen to some the things that customers were saying, maybe we'd all be a little happier.

Please deposit 25 cents

— —

Marc Grant	Internet: marcbg@feenix.metronet.com	
POB 850472	Amateur Radio Station N5MEI	
Richardson, TX 75085	Voice/Fax: 214-231-3998	

— — — — . — — — . — — . — — . —

Date: 10 Mar 93 15:53:03 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: TH-78A
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone out there have info on how to set a Kenwood TH-78A to work above 450 Khz ?

Tnx

Seth KC2WE taylor_s@tix.timeplex.com

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #298
